1.2.1994 के पश्चात् गेहूं और चावल के केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्यों में वृद्धि नहीं की गई है।

(ग) केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्य खाद्यान्नों की इकाइमिक लागत को पूर्णतया पूरा नहीं करते हैं और भारतीय खाद्य निगम की खाद्यान्नों की इकाइमिक लागत तथा केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्यों के बीच अंतर को सरकार द्वारा खाद्य राजसहायता वहन करके पूरा किया जाता है। अतः भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा इससे कोई लाभ प्राप्त करने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) और (ङ) भारतीय खाद्य निगम निर्धारित की गई विनिर्दिष्टयों के अनुरूप खाद्यान्न खरीदता है और सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली आदि के अधीन वितरित करने के लिए उन्हें राज्य सरकारों/उनके नामितियों को जारी करता है। वे स्टाक की सुपुर्दगी केवल तभी स्वीकार करते हैं जब वे इस बात से सन्तुष्ट हो जाते हैं कि स्टाक उचित औसत किस्म का है।

Revival of BPMEL

2376. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to Starred Qestion 514 answered in Rajya Sabha on 9th September, 1996 and state:

(a) the total revival cost of Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Limited as worked cut by the consultant;

(b) fund generated through sale of dispensable assets;

(c) funding required from the Government after converting the outstanding loans into equity and writing off the interest;

(d) whether an appeal from the employees against the BIFR order has been admitted by the Appallate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction;

(e) If so, the observations of the Appellate Authority; and

(f) action contemplated by the Government for revival of this company?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) According to consultant's report, the cost of the scheme is Rs. 15.40 crore, out of which Rs. 4.32 crore is to be financed through disposal of assets.

(c) According to the consultant, the requirement of funds from the Government is Rs. 9.60 crore, which will remain unchanged even if outstanding Government loan is converted into equity & interest is written off.

(d) to (f) The appeal has been admitted by AAIFR on 13.11.96 and the next hearing has been scheduled for 6.1.1997. Further action will be taken as warranted by the decision of AAIFR.

Mismanagement in BCCL

2377. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Economic Times dated 21st October, 1996 under the caption "A roundabout strategy for Bharat Coking";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on each of the points mentioned in the news-item and action being contemplated to correct the situation;

(c) the extent to which the reported/ suggested shortages in coal stocks of BCCL, year, have contributed to the present situation of BCCL;

(d) whether any responsibilities have been fixed for the reported and other mismanagements in BCCL which have brought the BCCL to its current situation, and action taken against them; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One of the specific points raised in the article is that certain high-tech mines

were technologically successes. Their failures on the economic front were however because of the need to keep prices at the lowest possible level. The pricing adopted consciously fixed the prices of BCCL at less than the economic prices,. The Govt. have recently deregulated the prices of coking coal which is the major product of BCCL in order to enacle the company to realise the true value of coal. On the second specific point relating to the female workforce in BCCL, they are mainly deployed in sidings and manual quarries. With the increase of mechanisation in order to enable faster despatches, manual workers are being rendered surplus. Loading by Pay Loaders is a necessary consequence of rail movement rationalisation also. Efforts are under way to deploy these workers to the extent possible.

(c) CIL conducts annual pithead stock measurement in respect of each mine of every subsidiary. The details of shortfall in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are 0.99 million tonnes (MTs), 2.81 MTs and 0.28 MTs respectively. Where shortages in stocks are exceeding the permissible limit of measurement error of 5% with respect to book stock in pitheads, they are reported and investigated into. The existence of shortages do contribute to the loss incurred by BCCL.

(d) and (e) Disciplinary action has been initiated in 51 cases for stock shortages in BCCL.

Production of coal in Bihar

2378. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal in Bihar, during the last three years;

(b) whether any project has been taken up to minimise the contents of sulphur in coal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The total production of coal in Bihar during the last three years is as under:—

Year	(million tonnes)
1993-94	72.27
1994-95	72.41
1995-96	74.53

(b)and (c) The sulphur content in the coal prodced from the mines in Bihar is generally low and therefore, there is no proposal to set up any plant for reduction of sulphur in coal in the State of Bihar.

Approval for Transportation Charges in Levy Sugar Price Equalisation fund Accounts

2379. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any action to approve the transportation charges (including transportation of retailers) as approved by the Gujarat Government in levy sugar price equalisation fund accounts;

(b) whether Government propose to allow state Government to claim octroi and insurance charges under levy sugar price equalisation fund as per earlier guidelines of the Central Government dated the 28th October, 1972; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter so far?